

PROCIB-D-31
30 June 1960

TAB D

Special Meetings to Discuss Procurement Problems
in Moscow, with Mr. Paul A. Smith, Jr., Publications Officer
24 May 1960

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Present:

[REDACTED] CIA, Chairman
Lewis C. Coffin, Library of Congress
William McAfee, State Department
George A. Pughe, Library of Congress, AID

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[REDACTED] CIA
James Vulfson, AID-ATIC
Lt. Col. George Wilson, ATIC

1. Mr. Coffin opened the morning meeting with a statement that there is a gap between the materials provided from Moscow to the Library of Congress and that provided to the intelligence agencies. He explained the history of the publications procurement program, emphasizing that the Library of Congress entered into it with the understanding that the Library of Congress as well as other Federal libraries could utilize the Publications Officer facilities of the Department of State. Mr. McAfee and Mr. Smith both stated that there is no change in policy, and there should not be limited procurement for non-intelligence agencies.

2. The Library of Congress, Mr. Coffin stated further, wants to utilize air cargo for periodicals only and not books, with the exception of reports on international meetings, plans, and statistical handbooks. Mr. Smith reported an improvement at Moscow in the control of single copy items.

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3. In view of the large shipment (7,000) books received in January from Moscow, it was suggested to Mr. Smith that he should try to make his shipments regular. Mr. Smith stated that he had to choose between buying or shipping, since he had to do the packaging. [REDACTED] suggested the

[REDACTED] Pros and cons of this proposal were discussed, with no decision as both Moscow and Washington have to be consulted. Mr. Smith explained the tight personnel situation prevailing in Moscow during the summer of 1959, which caused the havoc in the program. He sent in despatch no. 246 in November 1959 to propose remedies which would avoid recurrence of the situation this summer. He emphasized that his U.S. secretary replacement should be fully trained.

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4. Mr. Coffin asked for reaction to a Library of Congress man in Moscow to handle exchanges and searches for historical materials.

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Mr. Smith said that the time is not propitious for such a proposal, since the Moscow response to the summit failure has not yet been assessed insofar as his program was concerned.

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5. There was further discussion of the point raised earlier on limited support to non-intelligence agencies. [REDACTED] asked Mr. Smith to also check this point with Mr. Leslie S. Brady, USIA Cultural Affairs Officer in Moscow. Mr. Smith was urged to make best use of air cargo and air pouch facilities.

6. Specialized procurement was considered, Mr. Smith reporting on front group meetings, thematic plans, and other ephemera which must be procured personally. Mr. Smith stated that the thematic plans are not reliable to use as procurement guides. He has been sending back all he can get in these categories.

7. Mr. Vulfson stated his belief that USSR publications announcement lists seem to appear in 2 categories, 1 for home consumption and 1 for export. He reported one figure that foreign bookstores get only about 25% of titles listed in Novyye Kniga. He also wanted to know how provincial USSR serial and book publications can be best procured. Mr. Smith replied that correspondence is not profitable, personal trips are. He reported further that military procurement at the Embassy is done separately although there is an exchange of information on procurement. There is also close liaison between Mr. Smith and his [REDACTED] counterpart.

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8. Mr. Pughe asked whether the documentary reports type of literature is or will be made more readily available. Could an exchange, for example, between ASTIA and the Ministry of Culture be worked out, offering the Technical Abstract Bulletin for something comparable? The items desired from Moscow are free, but only available at conferences, institutes, etc. Mr. Smith thought that librarians would be most effective in making exchanges of this sort; Soviet librarians were eager to make contact with U.S. librarians.

9. Mr. Pughe suggested that priority selection of titles made by AID be sent to Mr. Smith via the Library of Congress to ensure procurement. Mr. Smith stated that he is already purchasing all of this material for the Library of Congress, thus available to AID.

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10. Mr. Smith reported that the smaller agencies are without funds currently in Moscow. He also enquired as to what Chinese Communist material to get. [REDACTED] replied that everything in the scientific and technical field is needed. Mr. Smith asked for reaction to extensive travel in the Balkans. It was favorable, but Washington should be told of plans early enough to prepare requirements.

11. There was discussion of Mr. Smith's proposal to have a single fund in Moscow; all agencies desiring to participate would contribute, and ICD/FP

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in Washington to be responsible for fiscal reporting as well as distribution of the items received. [REDACTED] emphasized that his agency can participate only under the condition that this proposal would involve no increase in the personnel [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He also stipulated that the shipments should be regularized to one per month, and that all selection items should have indicated on them the ultimate end recipient.

12. Mr. Smith explained that 30% of the time of the two Publications Officers in Moscow is spent in what he called non-productive work (packaging, sorting, etc.). He now buys books in quantity, packaged by the bookstores. He then has to sort the books out by title, indicate the end recipient and then re-wrap. His ultimate goal is to package only once, if this can be worked out.

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13. The morning meeting then adjourned, after deciding that Messrs. Coffin, Smith [REDACTED] meet in the afternoon to discuss in detail Mr. Smith's despatch no. 246 of November, 1959.

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14. The following were discussed by Messrs. Coffin, Smith [REDACTED] in the afternoon meeting:

a. Consolidate book requirements. This suggestion is being worked on in Washington. The over-all listing of requirements will be in general categories, and will not interfere with the specific order requirements.

b. Single fund allotment. Since there is no orderly system of procurement available in Moscow (i.e., no books sent to the Publications Officers on approval) visits must be made in person to each bookstore, kiosk, etc. and the material picked up in person. The crux of the problem is, must Moscow identify recipient of every item. The answer is positive, and it was pointed out to Mr. Smith that this was one of the reasons an additional Publications Officer was assigned to Moscow. The details of implementation for this suggestion are being worked out in Washington, and instructions will be forthcoming.

c. One subscription program. Mr. Smith suggested that the Embassy subscribe to only one set of subscriptions and that the rest be directly served by air mail to the recipient. Although this may be possible in some instances, in others there are security considerations which are a factor. The Library of Congress is willing to get direct service on those titles (some 7 or 8) which are subsidized by the U.S.S.R. Washington is studying this proposal to see what other channels can be utilized.

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d. Packaging. Already in effect. Nylon tape is being sent.

d. Clerk-stenographer. She is being trained. Action with the State Department.